REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend Claims 1, 2, 3, 5-10, 13 and 14 and cancel Claims 4 and 12. All of Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 are believed in condition for allowance.

Specifically, Claims 1 and 9 are amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claims 4 and 12 which should place all of Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13 and 14 in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 12 are hereby cancelled. Also, allowable Claims 2 and 10 are rewritten in independent form which thereby places Claims 2, 7, 8 and 10 in condition for allowance.

Applicants also submit amendments to the Specification to add appropriate headings, and further amend the Abstract for clarity.

Accordingly, further and favorable consideration of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl: Marked-Up Amended Abstract
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136.05/04

ABSTRACT~

IMAGE PROCESSING FOR CLUSTERING RELATED TEXT OBJECTS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An image ~~processing~~processor for producing clusters of related objects in a multi—level digital representation of an image includes ~~means~~a part for identifying predetermined objects in the image and for supplying data defining their locations. It also includes ~~means (12)~~a part for deriving segmentation data directly from the multi—level digital representation. A segmentation device ~~(16)~~ receives both sets of data and clusters the predetermined objects into groups for each segmented region before providing clustering data for subsequent analysis.